

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 NSC-05 /035 W

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R 030720Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4812

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 2671

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EFIN, SW

SUBJECT: POSSIBILITY OF EARLY ELECTIONS FADES

REF: STOCKHOLM 2587

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. THE THREAT OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS THIS FALL, POSED BY PRIME MINISTER PALME LAST WEEK (REFTEL) FADED FRIDAY FOLLOWING VOTING IN PARLIAMENT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC LEGISLATION. DESPITE THE GOVERNMENT'S IMPLIED THREAT THAT IF THE BOURGOIS OPPOSITION PARTIES DID NOT SUPPORT ITS ECONOMIC PROPOSALS -- AND THUS OBTAIN THE NEED FOR THE DRAWING OF LOTS IN THE DEADLOCKED RIKSDAG -- NEW ELECTIONS WOULD BE CALLED THIS FALL, THE OPPOSITION HELD ITS GROUND AND THE GOVERNMENT LOST IN THE DRAWING ON THREE OF ITS SEVEN PROPOSALS. HOWEVER, THE PRIME MINISTER WAS APPARENTLY SATISFIED BY A LATE-NIGHT MEETING HE HELD WITH GUNNAR HELEN, LEADER OF THE LIBERAL PARTY, IN WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER ASKED HELEN IF THE LIBERAL PARTY WERE PREPARED TO BACK THE GOVERNMENT'S FUTURE ECONOMIC POLICY. ALTHOUGH HELEN'S REPLY WAS SOMEWHAT AMBIGUOUS, PALME TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE HAD RECEIVED

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"THE REPLIES TO THE ISSUES I CONSIDER TO BE ESSENTIAL."

THE PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS WERE INTERPRETED AS
INDICATING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS NO LONGER CONSIDERING
THE POSSIBILITY OF CALLING EARLY ELECTIONS, PARTICULARLY
SINCE CENTER PARTY LEADER FALLDIN ALSO DECLARED THAT
HIS PARTY WAS PREPARED TO LIVE UP TO THE SO-CALLED
"HAGA AGREEMENT" IN WHICH BOTH THE CENTER AND LIBERALS
AGREED TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT FISCAL POLICIES.
END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: THE FACT
THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS APPARENTLY ABANDONED THE IDEA
OF EARLY ELECTIONS -- DESPITE ITS INABILITY TO OBTAIN
OPPOSITION SUPPORT FOR ITS LEGISLATION IN LAST FRIDAY'S
VOTING -- WOULD SEEM TO CONFIRM THE GENERALLY HELD
IMPRESSION IN POLITICAL CIRCLES THAT THE GOVERNMENT
NEVER SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATED CALLING NEW ELECTIONS BUT
SIMPLY USED THE THREAT OF ELECTIONS TO ATTEMPT TO
PRESSURE THE LIBERAL AND CENTER PARTIES INTO SUPPORTING
ITS POLICIES.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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